

the descriptions of *P. bulleri*, but as none were taken it would be unsafe to venture an opinion as to its identity. The second species was seen again about San Benedicte and Socorro Islands where it was nesting. It proved to be *Puffinus cuneatus* Salvin, heretofore known only from the Bonin Islands south of Japan, Krusenstern Island, and the Hawaiian Islands.

On July 23, a Red-tailed Tropic Bird, *Phaëthon rubricaudus*, was shot a short distance north of Guadalupe Island, thus adding the third species of the genus to our fauna. The Red-tailed Tropic Bird has, I think, heretofore been known only from the South Pacific. Whether it is of regular occurrence in our southwestern waters will be ascertained when we have a better knowledge of the pelagic species of this little known region.

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### SYRNIUM OCCIDENTALE CAURINUM, A NEW OWL FROM THE PUGET SOUND REGION.

BY C. HART MERRIAM.

IN THE last edition of the Check-List of the American Ornithologists' Union (1895), and the second edition of Ridgway's 'Manual of North American Birds' (1896), California is given as the northern limit of range of the Spotted Owl, *Syrnium occidentale*. But in 'The Auk' for January, 1893 (Vol. X, pp. 17-18), Mr. S. N. Rhoads records two specimens from twelve miles east of Tacoma—a locality, by the way, some miles distant from the alleged "western foothills of the Cascades." The only other Puget Sound specimen of which I have any knowledge was killed in the city of Seattle a year or two ago, and was obtained by Mr. Henry W. Hindshaw, who mounted it for the Museum of the University of Washington, where it was recently examined by Dr. A. K. Fisher and myself.

On June 22 of the present year (1897), one of my assistants, Mr. E. A. Preble, killed an adult female at Mt. Vernon, in Skagit

Valley, Washington. A couple of months later I saw a specimen nailed up on a log cabin in the valley of the Soleduc River, at the north base of the Olympic Mountains, and about the same time (the last week of August) saw two living owls in the Olympic Mountains which I believe were unquestionably this species. Owing to the density of the forest and great height of the trees, owls, though common, are seldom seen in this region.

Comparison of the northwestern Spotted Owl with the type specimen of *S. occidentale* shows it to be a well-marked subspecies, differing, like so many birds of the same region, in darker and richer coloration.

*Syrnium occidentale caurinum*, subsp. nov.

*Type* from Mt. Vernon, Skagit Valley, Washington, No. 157473, ♀ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Coll. Collected June 22, 1897 by E. A. Preble. Orig. no. 344. Wing 320 mm., tail (middle feathers) 205 mm.

*Characters*.—Similar to *S. occidentale* but everywhere darker. In general the white spots and markings are smaller; the dark areas larger and darker. This is especially noticeable on the head and back where the white spotting is reduced to a minimum. The dark markings on the sides of the breast, flanks and feet are very much darker and more extensive than in *occidentale*. But perhaps the most striking difference is on the wings. The primaries are not only very much darker but the broad whitish tips have disappeared and are represented by an indistinct pale band mixed with a little whitish on the outer side of the vane and on some of the feathers a faint whitish terminal edging. The three or four pale bars nearest the tips of the feathers are also obsolescent.

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THE TERNS OF GREAT GULL ISLAND, N. Y.,  
DURING 1897.

BY J. HARRIS REED.<sup>1</sup>

GREAT GULL ISLAND is the smallest of the group of islands situated at the eastern end of Long Island, and contains about

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<sup>1</sup> Read before the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Oct. 21, 1897.